

Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, August 26, 1841, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, August 26, 1841.

My Dear General, I recd. your letter of the 12 Inst. yesterday and read it to Doctor Linn. It made the tears stand in his eyes. I believe his brave heart would shed its blood as readily in vindication of your fame, as it would in defending the country from a foreign invader. It is a great pleasure to me to observe, how thoroughly love for you personally, is blended in patriotic hearts, with love for the country. Party spirit is gradually yielding to this feeling, and I have, no doubt, you will be in affliction more affectionately cherished in the hearts of your countrymen than any man who ever lived in it. Before this, Tyler's veto, will have 0146 122 reached you. It has made a sad fluttering among the pigeons, (or rather rooks) of Federalism. I think the schism a fatal one and that it will secure the country against a Bank.

The Democracy is rallying again in all quarters, and by the time Tylers term is out Banking of all sorts will, I hope, be in as bad odor as the Biddle bank's corpse is at this moment. Then the public feeling will probably justify some decisive step, perhaps a constitutional express provision to save the country, from the struggles which have harassed the nation from its birth to this day. The new Bill just created in the Federal Caucus to "head Tyler" as Botts 1 says, will share, it is thought certainly the fate of the former. You will see in the Globe, that temper which this begets by the debates. Benton is on the floor at this moment and making a final and scathing speech against the Land distributions. He has been called to order for charging fraud in the management by which

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certain Western members have first been drawn to its support. He goes on again, merely saying that if it is unparliamentary to charge fraud on members voting for the provision, with which it is acknowledged they do not mean to comply, it is not unparliamentary to charge fraud on the operation of their measure, and this he has made them swallow. Archer and Rives have deserted to the Bill, and I do not doubt it will pass: possibly it may be vetoed, but not probably. It will be an ingredient of great potency in future political struggles and will strengthen the hands of our party. The Session, I think, will continue until the middle of next month and taken altogether will be the most pregnant of mischief of any ever held. Clay will succeed so far at least, as to throw all his apples of discord into the political arena; and as the whole scramble will be about mercenary interests, to be upheld by electioneering, our coming control will be characterized by the innumerable frauds, which distinguished the last. But honesty is the best policy and foul play will not prevail again.

1 John Minor Botts, of Virginia.